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Chemistry Division News

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Chemistry Division

Luray M. Minkiewicz, Chair



The Chemistry Division is concerned with chemistry and chemical technology, and the economics, educational advances, and information handling of developments in the field of chemistry and related subjects.

Colleagues and Friends,

Another year has passed and what a year! In 2009, SLA celebrated the 100th Anniversary of SLA amidst the backdrop of a worldwide economic downturn. The SLA Alignment Project yields a proposal for a name change for our association. Our Division announces a new award for Outstanding Service, while one of our members is listed as an SLA Rising Star! A membership survey is sent out, the results of which will be the basis for an updated Division Strategic Plan.

The membership survey was a team effort, with input not only from the Strategic Planning Chair (Linda Shackleton), but also from our Chair-Elect (Teri Vogel), myself, and the Membership (Judith Currano), Mentoring (Denise Callihan), and Professional Development (Ted Baldwin) committees. This same group has analyzed the results to help in updating our Strategic Plan. I thank them for their contributions. For a more detailed update on the survey results and the strategic planning process which includes our financial strategic planning also, see my column in the SLA Chemistry Division Newsletter.

One of the themes recurrent in the membership survey responses was that the Division needs to be more "virtual"—offering more online professional development or program-type activities, blogs, etc. With *SciTech News* going electronic only starting in 2010, we can see that this trend is pervasive.

One thought that I will reiterate from my column in the Chemistry Division newsletter is that there were so many ideas and good comments in the survey results that the challenge for our Strategic Planning Committee and Division Board will be in deciding what the priorities should be.

It is also fitting to again say that it has been my privilege this year to work with a great group of information professionals in the Chemistry Division to help provide quality programs, professional development courses, awards for students and young professionals, and other division activities. I wholeheartedly and sincerely thank all of our Division Board and Committee members who volunteer their time and talents for the benefit of everyone in the Division! Please support your Division leaders in 2010--Teri Vogel, the 2010 Division Chair, Bill Armstrong, the 2010 Chair-Elect, and our Committee Chairs.

Luray M. Minkiewicz

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